AALL LISP PUBLIC LIBRARIES TOOLKIT
STATE INFORMATION - MICHIGAN

1. Finding a law library

The Library of Michigan maintains an on-line Directory of Michigan Law Libraries. The directory indicates which libraries have on-line catalogs and which are open to the public. This list is the best source for a Michigan-based researcher looking for Michigan legal materials in print.

2. Help with legal research

A number of public and private libraries offer guides on how to do legal research using Michigan sources, including:

- How to Find Information on a Legal Topic (Library of Michigan)
- How to Find Current Michigan Statutes (Library of Michigan)
- Sources of Michigan Legislative History (Library of Michigan)
- Finding Michigan Cases (Arthur Neef Law Library, Wayne State University)
- How to Use an American Case Digest (Library of Michigan)

The American Association of Law Libraries also offers a general guide to legal research: How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Non-Lawyers .

In addition the Michigan courts and the State Bar of Michigan each sponsor an on-line legal help center with helpful information and links relating to various legal topics:

- Michigan Courts Self-Help Center: http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/selfhelp/selfhelphome.htm
- State Bar of Michigan Online Legal Help Center: http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/libraries/selfhelp.cfm

3. Links to specific Michigan legal resources:

Michigan Constitution: http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Constitution

Executive Branch

- List of state websites: http://www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29929---A,00.html
- Michigan Administrative Code and Michigan Register: http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10576_35738---,00.html
- Administrative Decisions – link to agency home page from list of state websites and look for available administrative decisions online
- Attorney General opinions: http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-20988---,00.html
- Tax forms: http://www.michigan.gov/taxes

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Legislative Branch

- Statutes: www.legislature.mi.gov
- Bills and pending legislation: www.legislature.mi.gov

Judicial Branch

- Case law (opinions of the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals): http://courtofappeals.mijud.net/resources/opinions.htm
- Current Court Rules: http://courtofappeals.mijud.net/rules/
- Proposed and Newly-Amended Court Rules: http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Resources/Administrative/index.htm
- Model Civil Jury Instructions: http://courts.mi.gov/mcji-index.htm
- Court Forms (State Court Administrative Office Approved): http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/courtforms/

Local laws

- Local government websites: http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/michloc.html
- Local ordinances: http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/michloc.html#mcodes

4. Michigan Law Pages on Legal Directories and Law School web sites

Another way to get started with legal research is to consult a legal search engine or directory which provides links to many Michigan law resources in one place, such as:

Findlaw.com: http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/mi/laws.html
American Law Sources On-Line: http://www.lawsource.com/also/usa.cgi?mi
University of Michigan Library Government Documents website: http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/mich.html

Michigan law school libraries also provide guides to Michigan legal resources on their web sites. See:

Michigan State College of Law Library (Michigan Legal Resources)
Thomas M. Cooley Law School Library (Michigan Resource Links)
University of Michigan Law School Library (list of major books on Michigan law)
Wayne State University Arthur Neef Law Library (subject guides covering a number of Michigan law topics)

5. Legal databases

Check to see whether your library has a subscription to one of the specialized legal research databases such as Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, or LoisLaw. These services provide on-line access to Michigan cases, statutes, court rules, and other legal resources.

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